

The following papers were read :—

1. On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. H. S. le Strange near the city of Mexico. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., and OSBERT SALVIN, F.L.S.

Mr. H. S. le Strange, during his residence in Mexico, as attaché to the British Legation in 1865 and 1866, formed a considerable series of bird-skins, principally in the vicinity of the capital itself and in the upper parts of the valleys which fall towards the Atlantic. Mr. le Strange having kindly submitted this collection to our examination, we have had great pleasure in determining the species contained in it (which are 262 in number), and beg leave to offer to the Society some notes on a few of the rarer species, made during our examination of the specimens.

1. PIPILO MACULATUS, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, i. p. 434.

Three skins of this bird are in the collection. Mr. le Strange notes that it is found in the tierra fria, in the barrancas, and that its Mexican name is "*Chalmero*."

It seems to us very doubtful whether it will not be necessary to unite under this name *Pipilo arcticus*, Sw., *P. oregonus*, Bell, and *P. megalonyx*, Baird. The northern specimens are mostly blacker on the back; but a skin sent to Selater by Prof. Baird as *P. megalonyx* from South California, and another as *P. arcticus*, are not, in our opinion, separable from Mexican specimens. This bird descends as far south as the highlands of Guatemala, and was obtained by Salvin near Quezaltenango ('Ibis,' 1866, p. 193).

2. PIPILO MACRONYX, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, i. p. 434.

We have usually called the species in our collections *Pipilo virescens*, under which name it was described by Hartlaub, 'Journ. f. Orn.' 1863, p. 169. But upon referring to Swainson's characters there can be no doubt that the same bird is his *Pipilo macronyx*. It is easily known from the preceding (*P. maculatus*) by the olive-green edgings of the back- and wing- and tail-feathers; but Mr. le Strange has not distinguished the two species in his MS. Selater has one of the original specimens of *P. virescens* in his collection, received from Dr. Hartlaub, also examples collected by Boucard during his last expedition, and a skin obtained by Mr. White near the city of Mexico.

3. PIPILO FUSCUS.

Pipilo fusca, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, i. p. 434, et Anim. in Men. p. 347; Bp. Consp. p. 487; Cab. J. f. Orn. 1862, p. 474.

Pipilo mesoleucus, Baird, Pr. Ac. Phil. vii. p. 119, et B. N. A. p. 518; Selater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 304.

There is no doubt that, as pointed out by Cabanis, the present

species (called by Baird *P. mesoleucus*) is the true *P. fuscus* of Swainson, and that the Californian bird (called *P. fuscus* by Baird and others) should be termed *P. crissalis*. Sclater's collection contains an original specimen of *P. mesoleucus*, collected by Kennicott in New Mexico, which agrees perfectly with the skins in Mr. le Strange's collection, and with others obtained in Mexico by Boucard and De Saussure. Mr. le Strange notes that this bird is "common in the valley of Mexico."

4. *CARPODACUS CASSINII*, Baird, B. N. A. p. 414.

Three specimens (2 ♂ and 1 ♀) of this species, obtained by Mr. le Strange, are the first of it we have seen. As stated by Baird, it is most like *C. purpureus*, but remarkable for the large size and elongation of the bill. Baird's specimens were from New Mexico.

5. *CHRYSOMITRIS PINUS* (Wils.); Baird, B. N. A. p. 425; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1864, p. 174.

Three skins of what we believe to be this North-American species, agreeing with one in Sclater's collection from the same locality. We much doubt the distinctness of *C. macroptera*, Du Bus (Esq. Orn. t. 23), which appears to be the same bird.

6. *ICTERUS BULLOCKII*, Sw. Ph. Mag. 1827, i. p. 436; Baird, B. N. A. p. 549.

Examples of both sexes of this species, which is stated to inhabit the tierra fria, and is called "*Calandria nogalera*."

7. *ICTERUS ABEILLÆI* (Less.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 252, et 1864, p. 175; Cat. A. B. p. 130.

A pair of this species, stated to have been brought in alive and kept in a cage for some time. Mexican name "*Calandria mielera*." The female does not appear distinguishable from that of *I. bullockii*; the males are readily separable by the black sides and uropygium of the present species.

8. *CYANOCITTA CALIFORNICA* (Vig.); Sclater, Cat. A. B. p. 143.

Aphelocoma floridana, Bp. C. R. xlii. p. 956.

Cyanocitta floridana, Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 300.

Mr. le Strange's skin (obtained in the tierra fria) agrees well with a Californian specimen in Sclater's collection, and with the characters whereby Baird distinguishes *C. californica* from *C. woodhousii*. It is white without any bluish tinge below, and the crissum is nearly pure white. It is probable, therefore, that Prof. Baird has wrongly referred his specimen no. 8465, from Mexico, to *C. woodhousii*.

We have little doubt that Sallé's specimen (no. 186 of his first collection), referred by Sclater (following Bonaparte) to *C. floridana*,

was really of this species. Salvin has received a skin of this *Cyanocitta* from the vicinity of Oaxaca, collected by Mr. A. Fenochio.

9. PSILORHINUS MORIO (Wagler).

Two skins of this bird, marked ♂ et ♀, and coloured alike, obtained from the tierra caliente of the Atlantic, where Mr. le Strange says they are "very common, and often follow the passer-by, taking short flights from tree to tree, and making a harsh and discordant noise."

This bird has long been confounded with the *Psilorhinus mexicanus* of Rüppell, which is immediately distinguishable by its white belly and the broad white terminations of the rectrices. Rüppell gives the locality of his species as Tamaulipas; but all the Mexican specimens of *Psilorhinus* which have come under our notice have belonged to the black-tailed *Ps. morio*, while all the Guatemalan and more southern examples have been of the (so-called) *Ps. mexicanus*. Under these circumstances it is not unlikely that there may have been some mistake in Rüppell's locality.

The two species (if such they be) will stand as follows:—

PSILORHINUS MORIO.

Pica morio, Wagl. Isis, 1829, p. 751.

Pica fuliginosa, Less. Traité d'Orn. p. 333.

Psilorhinus morio, Bp. Consp. p. 381; Cab. Mus. Hein. p. 226; Baird, Birds N. Am. p. 592; Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 300, and 1859, pp. 57, 365.

Diagn. *Ventre cinerascens; rectricibus totis concoloribus.*

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (*Sallé*), Jalapa (*de Oca*).

PSILORHINUS MEXICANUS.

Corvus morio, fem. et juv., Wagl. Isis, 1829, p. 751.

Psilorhinus mexicanus, Rüpp. Mus. Senck. ii. p. 189, t. 11. f. 2.

Psilorhinus morio, Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 22; Taylor, Ibis, 1860, p. 113; Cab. Journ. f. Orn. 1861, p. 83; Scl. Cat. Am. B. p. 145; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 104.

Diagn. *Ventre albicante, rectricum lateralium apicibus latis albis.*

Hab. Guatemala (*Salvin*), Honduras (*Taylor*), Costa Rica (*Arcé*), "Tamaulipas, Mexico (*Rüpp.*)"

10. SITTASOMUS OLIVACEUS (Max.).

We have already given our reasons for using this name for the bird usually called *S. sylvioides* (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1868, p. 630).

11. CHÆTURA RUTILA (Vieill.), Sclater, Cat. A. B. p. 283.

Mr. le Strange's collection contains a pair of this beautiful Swift from the tierra fria, the first Mexican specimens we have seen of it. Mr. Lawrence has lately presented to Sclater an Ecuadorian skin of the bird, which agrees perfectly with Mexican and Guatemalan examples.

12. *CENTURUS ALBIFRONS* (Sw.).

Picus albifrons, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, i. p. 439; Sund. Pic. p. 52; Cab. Journ. f. O. 1862, p. 324.

Centurus santacruzi, Bp. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 116; Sclater, Cat. A. B. p. 343.

We have hitherto called this species by Bonaparte's name; but there can be no doubt that, as pointed out by Cabanis, it is the *P. albifrons* of Swainson. It is common in Southern Mexico and Guatemala.

13. *BUTEO ELEGANS*, Cassin; Baird, B. N. A. p. 28.

Mr. le Strange's collection contains a single skin of this Buzzard, agreeing with Texan specimens collected by Mr. Dresser. We have also seen an example of it in a collection recently sent to M. Sallé from Orizava by M. Botteri.

14. *ORTALIDA VETULA*, Wagler, Isis, 1830, p. 1112, et 1832 p. 1227; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 391.

O. poliocephala, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 310.

Mr. le Strange's collection contains a single skin of this *Ortaldida*, which he found "very common" in the tierra caliente of the Atlantic. He shot many on the road to Tampico, in April 1866. We believe that the Texan bird called by the American ornithologists *O. vetula*, *O. poliocephala*, and *O. macalli* is probably referable to this species.

15. *ORTALIDA POLIOCEPHALA*, Wagler, Isis, 1830, p. 1112, et 1832, p. 1227.

Two skins of this species, in Mr. le Strange's collection, are the first we have met with. It is immediately distinguishable from the preceding by its larger size, longer tail, whiter belly, and the much broader terminal bands of the tail-feathers, which are fulvous and not pure white.

2. Notes on the Species of the Genus *Micrastur*. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., and OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.L.S.

As in case of the *Asturinae*, to which we have lately called the Society's attention*, some of the members of the genus *Micrastur* are at present in a state of great confusion. We trust that the following remarks may serve to render the species of the group with which we are acquainted more readily distinguishable.

The genus *Micrastur*, established by Mr. G. R. Gray in 1841†

* See P. Z. S. 1869, p. 129.

† List of Genera of Birds, p. 6.